

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PORT M 00862 080759Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 SMI-01 /021 W
-----110139 090404Z /21
R 080230Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3347

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0862

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, PP
SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN EXPEDITION TO NINIGO AND
HERMIT ISLANDS AREA

REFS: A) 77 STATE 200811 B) UNDATED STRAUSS TO OLMSTED
LETTER

1. PLEASE ADVISE STRAUSS THAT HE WILL BE SENT LETTER FROM
SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. FORM W10 SIGNED BY SPRINGER NOT ACCEPTABLE. PNG LAW
REQUIRES RETURN OF SPECIMENS ON REQUEST OF CONSERVATOR OF
FAUNA AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING AFTER 12/31/79. NEITHER DR.
MUNRO NOR UPNG HAVE ANY LEGAL STANDING WITH RESPECT TO
FUTURE NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR WHICH THIS REQUIREMENT
ESTABLISHED. SPRINGER'S SIGNATURE NOT ACCEPTABLE AS MUST
COME FROM INSTITUTION'S DIRECTOR.

B. SMITHSONIAN ALREADY AN APPROVED INSTITUTION AND IT
ALREADY HAD AGREED TO THE TERMS FOR EXPORT OF WILDLIFE
FROM PNG. SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED BY S. DILLON RIPLEY
AND PORTER M. KIER, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY.

C. IF STRAUSS AGREES IN WRITING TO COMPLY WITH
CONDITIONS STATED IN W10, AND ALREADY AGREED TO BY
SMITHSONIAN, GPNG WILDLIFE PERSONNEL WILL WELCOME
EXPEDITION AND PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. IF
NOT, EXPORT OF SPECIMENS WILL NOT, REPEAT NOT, BE
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AUTHORIZED.

2. LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR WITH FURTHER EXPLANATION
FOLLOWS.

3. REGRET DELAY. GPNG DECISION JUST MADE. ONE FACTOR
ALMOST CAUSING AUTHORITIES TO PROHIBIT EXPEDITION WAS

EXPERIENCE FEW YEARS AGO WITH SMITHSONIAN'S
DR. TYSON ROBERTS, WHO, AFTER TAKING TENS OF THOUSANDS
OF SPECIMENS, REPORTEDLY HAD FALLING OUT WITH SMITHSONIAN
AND TOOK COLLECTION WITH HIM. THUS, PNG LOST FUTURE
ACCESS TO VALUABLE SPECIMENS. IT INSISTING ON FULL
COMPLIANCE, AS AGREED BY SMITHSONIAN, IN ORDER
PREVENT REPETITION. WILDLIFE PEOPLE CLAIM OVER 100
INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING BRITISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
COMPLY WITHOUT RESERVATIONS ADDENDED BY SPRINGER AND
FORWARDED BY STRAUSS. WE SEE NO CHANCE GPNG WILL MAKE
EXCEPTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: N/A
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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